

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1467 without my signature.

This bill would remove a limited number of exemptions found in current law that permit smoking in specified bars, warehouses, hotel lobbies, meeting and banquet rooms, and businesses without employees.

California has led the nation in effective smoking control activities, achieving the second lowest rate of smoking among adults in the nation. The cessation of smoking is a component of my plan to encourage Californian's to lead a healthy lifestyle and thereby reduce health care costs. While more needs to be done to reduce smoking rates, I do not agree that placing further restrictions on business owners is the correct approach. Instead, California can further reduce smoking rates in other ways, such as increasing access to cessation services offered through the highly effective California Smokers' Helpline.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger